

### **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 15-29 are pending in the present application. Claims 15 and 25 were amended in this response. No new matter was introduced as a result of the amendments. Support for the amendments may be found, for example, on page 9, line 11 - page 10, line 28, and page 11, lines 10-24 of the amended specification. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 15-19, 21-22, 25-26 and 25-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by *Evans et al.* (US Patent 6,690,918). Claims 20 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Evans et al.* (US Patent 6,690,918) in view of well-known prior art. Claims 23 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Evans et al.* (US Patent 6,690,918) in view of *London* (US Patent 5,590,184). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Specifically, the prior art fails to teach or suggest the features of a neutral telecommunication identification, as well as the feature of forwarding received profiles corresponding to the respective profile-specific correlation thresholds, upon activation by the subscriber, directly to other subscribers on the basis of a wireless, locally limited network technology using the module coupled to the respective communication terminal. Under the disclosed configuration, users have additional security by not having direct contact information being posted, and instead provide a neutral number that is assigned to the subscribers. Furthermore, users can expand networking capabilities by being able to directly forward 3<sup>rd</sup>-party profiles to other users.

In contrast, *Evans* discloses a system, where if any two of devices come into short-wave radio range of each other, the devices activate and a wireless local-area-network is established and the in-range devices swap profiles, which are compared to profiles held locally on each device such that a profile match registering on at least one device enables the device matching the profile to signal the sending device of the matched profile in order to request communication between the devices (col. 2, lines 23-40). *Evans* appears to disclose two configurations: one with Internet access, and one without (col. 2, lines 42-57). When Internet access is not used (col. 6, lines 32-33), users that come into range of one another prompts each device to send a real profile to the other device. These profiles are received by each participating device and matched against request profiles (i.e., what users are looking for) stored on each device. If a match, or a partial

match occurs, the device making the match beeps, vibrates, or alerts the user. The matching profile is displayed on the device with an option to contact the device that sent the matching profile. The contact method is disclosed as a page or voice communication (col. 6, lines 43-53). Thus, the profiles are not neutral, since they require the actual telephone number of the user for communication to occur. Also, since paging and/or voice communication is involved, the communication does not occur via a wireless, locally limited network technology. Moreover, *Evans* fails to teach or suggest users being able to directly forward 3<sup>rd</sup>-party profiles to other users.

Under the Internet-enabled embodiment of *Evans*, a host node is adapted for profile comparison and matching on behalf of the communications devices. A communications server is also maintained on the Internet and connected to the host node, where the communications server stores profile information and enables system extension to remote Internet users accessing the server (col. 3, lines 33-41). Web-enabled devices also allow the profile comparison and matching applications to be integrated into one application that up-links to a central server (col. 3, lines 42-53; col. 8, lines 34-47). However, in these embodiments, *Evans* fails to teach or suggest that the devices store and compare profiles - the above disclosure clearly indicates that this occurs on the server side. Furthermore, as discussed above, the Internet-enabled embodiment of *Evans* also fails to teach or suggest users being able to directly forward 3<sup>rd</sup>-party profiles to other users.

None of the other cited references solve the deficiencies of *Evans*, discussed above. In light of this, the Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections are traversed and should be withdrawn. As such, claims 15-29 of the present application are patentable over the art of record. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If any additional fees are due in connection with this application as a whole, the Examiner is authorized to deduct such fees from deposit account no. 02-1818. If such a deduction is made, please indicate the attorney docket no. (0112740-1005) on the account statement.

Respectfully submitted,

BELL, BOYD & LLOYD LLC

BY

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Zura", written over a horizontal line.

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